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Virginia under the Stuarts, 1607-1688. By Thomas J. Wertenbaker, Ph.D. (Princeton: Princeton university press, 1914. 271 p. \$1.50)

This book fills a long-felt need in a generally satisfactory way. The mass of source material on colonial Virginia published in recent years, together with the constructive work of Bruce and Alexander Brown, have at length made possible the writing of something like an authoritative history of the early period of the "Old Dominion." Mr. Wertenbaker has taken advantage of this admirable opportunity.

In dealing with the foundation of the colony, the author has used Brown's *Genesis* and *First republic* freely, but with discrimination. The result is a well-balanced account of origins that will meet with the approval of most scholars. A chapter on "The establishment of representative government" treats the all-important subject of the beginning of legislative government in America. Berkeley's administration and Bacon's rebellion are given full treatment, and the conclusions reached seem warranted by the evidence. A chapter on "The period of confusion" deals with the difficult time following Berkeley's retirement; "The critical period" completes the volume.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Wertenbaker finds the critical period of Virginia colonial history to be the last years of the Stuart régime. "The Glorious Revolution [1688] was a victory for liberty even more important to Virginia than to England. It brought to an end those attacks of the English government upon the representative institutions of the colony that had marked the last ten years." As this period of Virginia history has been insufficiently emphasized, Mr. Wertenbaker is wise in laying stress on it. At the same time, it may be said that the whole colonial history of Virginia was, in a sense, critical because during the entire period American institutions were in the making and any check given the development of the house of burgesses would have been a blow to American civilization. It was not until 1765 and the days of Patrick Henry that the final crisis was passed.

Students may take exception to the frank approval of Dale's administration and to the slight treatment of the Cromwellian age in Virginia history, although the materials are scanty for 1650-1660. Mr. Wertenbaker has not attempted to write an economic or institutional history. Within its limits his work is not likely to be superseded.

H. J. ECKENRODE

The iron hunter. By Chas. S. Osborn. (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 316 p. \$2.00)

The most interesting thing about *The iron hunter* is the hunter. This volume is the autobiography of a "hyperkinetic." It carries the reader along through its pages as on the current of a mountain stream leaping